

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 24 through page 6, line 6:**

The tip end member 14 contains a slider 50 (e.g., which ~~is the~~ may be single-piece lead holder or single-piece writing medium holder), and a tip 52. In this embodiment, the tip 52 and the slider 50 can be slid in the axial direction, and the tip 52 and the slider 50 can be projected together with the lead from the opening 14a at the tip end member or can be retreated (retracted) into the opening 14a at the tip end. It is a matter of course that the tip 52 and the slider 50 need not be slidable in the axial direction, and that they can be applied to a mechanical pencil of a type such that the tip and the slider are not slidable in the axial direction.

**Please replace the paragraph at page 6 line 12 through line 21:**

In the front end part of the body 50b, at least one blade 50e projecting in the inside diameter direction is formed, and also in the rear end part of the body 50b, a rib 50f projecting in the inside diameter direction is formed on the inner peripheral face of the through hole 50a. Also, a slit 50h is formed in a portion in which the rib of 50f is absent at the rear end part of the body 50b formed with the rib 50f of the slider 50. Thus, the rib 50f can be displaced elastically in the radial direction. Therefore, the blade 50e and the rib 50f form holding portions at two or more locations along an axial length of the writing medium holder 50.

Similarly, on the outer peripheral face of the outside cylinder 50c, a rib 50g projecting in the outside diameter direction is formed, and a slit 50i is formed in a portion in which the rib 50g of the outside cylinder 50c is absent. Thus, the rib 50g can be displaced elastically

~~biased~~ in the radial direction into contact with the inner surface of the ~~barrel~~ (tip end member) of the barrel.

**Please replace the paragraph at page 6 line 22 through page 7 line 2:**

The blade 50e and the rib 50f come into contact with the lead passing through the through hole 50a, and thereby hold the lead with a proper holding force. Also, a contact portion includes the rib 50g of the outside cylinder 50c ~~forms a contact portion~~ that comes into contact with the inner peripheral face of the tip end member 14, and thereby maintains the positional relationship with the tip end member 14 with a proper holding force. The blade 50c may be replaced with a rib similar to the rib 50f.

**Please insert the following paragraph between lines 11 and 12 of page 8:**

As explained earlier, the slider 50 is axially slidable within the tip end member 14 of the barrel 10 and, as is clearly illustrated in Figure 1, the rib 50b on the outside cylinder 50c maintains frictional contact throughout the entire axially slidable extent. In other words, the slider 50 always maintains a stable holding force within the tip end member 14 of the barrel. It is at least this feature that ensures that the lead L2 is surely fed by a predetermined amount without being pulled back together with the chuck 24 when the chuck 24 returns as described above.